

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

GS HOLISTIC, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

VAPE SAVVY LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C23-0411JLR

ORDER

Before the court is Plaintiff GS Holistic, LLC's ("GS Holistic") motion for a 60-day extension of time to perfect service on Defendants Eric Ward and Jason Stanifer (collectively, "Defendants"). (Mot. (Dkt. # 8).) The court GRANTS GS Holistic's motion for an extension of time.¹

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4 requires a plaintiff to serve the defendant with a

¹ Although the motion is noted for consideration on June 30, 2023 (*see id.*), the court sees no reason to delay issuing a decision on the motion. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 1 (authorizing the court to construe the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure "to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding").

1 summons and a copy of the complaint and sets forth the specific requirements for doing
 2 so. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 4. Rule 4(m), which provides the timeframe in which service
 3 must be effectuated, states in relevant part:

4 If a defendant is not served within 90 days after the complaint is filed, the
 5 court—on motion or on its own after notice to the plaintiff—must dismiss
 6 the action without prejudice against that defendant or order that service be
 made within a specified time. But if the plaintiff shows good cause for the
 failure, the court must extend the time for service for an appropriate period.

7 *Id.*

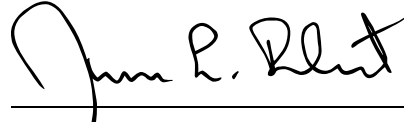
8 GS Holistic filed this action on March 19, 2023. (Compl. (Dkt. # 1).) As a result,
 9 Rule 4(m)’s 90-day deadline for effectuating service of process expired on June 17, 2023.
 10 Fed. R. Civ. P 4(m). GS Holistic represents that it was able to serve Defendants Vape
 11 Savvy LLC and Todd Wilson in April 2023. (Mot. ¶ 2.) GS Holistic represents that it
 12 has attempted to serve the remaining Defendants but has been unsuccessful. (*Id.* ¶¶ 3-6.)
 13 GS Holistic now asks the court to extend the Rule 4(m) deadline by 60 days to allow it to
 14 perfect service on Defendants “either personally or by publication.” (*Id.* ¶¶ 7-8.)

15 The court finds that GS Holistic has not demonstrated good cause for its failure to
 16 effectuate service before the Rule 4(m) deadline. Nevertheless, the court GRANTS GS
 17 Holistic’s motion for a 60-day extension of the deadline to perfect service (Dkt. # 8).²
 18 GS Holistic shall file proof of service on Defendants by no later than **August 16, 2023**.

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 21 ² This order does not grant GS Holistic leave to serve Defendants by publication. If GS
 22 Holistic seeks to serve Defendants by publication, it must file a motion for leave to do so. *See*
Pascua v. Heil, 108 P.3d 1253, 1257 (Wash. Ct. App. 2005) (explaining the standard for granting
 leave to serve a defendant by publication in Washington).

1 Failure to do so may result in the dismissal without prejudice of GS Holistic's claims
2 against Defendants. Further extensions of the deadline to serve Defendants will not be
3 granted absent exceptional circumstances.³

4 Dated this 20th day of June, 2023.

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7 JAMES L. ROBART
8 United States District Judge
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20 ³ Under Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 10(e)(3), the law firm, mailing address, and
21 telephone number of the attorney preparing the paper should be printed or typed at the bottom of
22 each page of a motion or other filing. In addition, Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 10(e)(5)
requires line numbers in the left margin of each page of a motion or other filing. GS Holistic's
motion does not comply with these rules. (*See Mot.*) Accordingly, the court ORDERS counsel
for GS Holistic to carefully review the court's local rules and to ensure compliance with those
rules in all future filings. Failure to comply with the court's local rules may result in sanctions.